



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Council for Agricultural Development PRODUCER EDUCATION AND INNOVATION WORKING GROUP



MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 27, 2014 Connecticut Department of Agriculture 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kevin Sullivan and Jamie Jones (via conference call), working group co-chairs, called the meeting to order at 2:38pm. Other working group members present were:

Dr. Richard	Fu	Agrivoultion
Bill	Davenport	Nonnewaug Agriscience Center
Joe	Geremia	Geremia Greenhouse
Russell	Holmberg	Holmberg Orchards
Abbie	Maynard	CT Agricultural Experiment Station
Eloise	Marinos	GeoRoots Solar Growth Farm
Susan	Mitchell	CT New Farmers Alliance
Charlie	Viens	Charles Island Oyster Farm
Gregg	Wershoven	Mountain Top Mushrooms
Jane	Williams	Board of Regents

Working group members Dr. Christoph Geiss and Eileen Hochberg were absent.

Other Governor's Council for Agricultural Development members in attendance were Chairman Steven K. Reviczky, Dean Gregory Weidemann, and Peter Orr. Agency staff included Stephen Anderson, Kurt Nieminen, Linda Piotrowicz, and Jaime Smith.

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 9, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Susan Mitchell, seconded by Bill Davenport, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

III. REVIEW OF TOWN HALL MEETING

Co-chair Kevin Sullivan reviewed the input received at the January 29, 2014, town hall meeting. A discussion ensued in response to the input.

IV. STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING DRAFT DELIVERABLES

The group engaged in an in-depth discussion about its assignment and drew the following conclusions: the need for workforce training and internships at the high school and collegiate level has significance to the agricultural industry, however the infrastructure behind it is lacking. In addition the lack of job awareness and networking is preventing new farmers from emerging.

VI. RECAP AND NEXT STEPS

It was determined a new section could be added to the Department of Agriculture's Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report to address need for increase agricultural jobs. (This section was added to the publication subsequent to the meeting.) At the next meeting on March 20, 2014, the final recommendations will be determined.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Kevin Sullivan adjourned meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jaime L. Smith
3/14/2014